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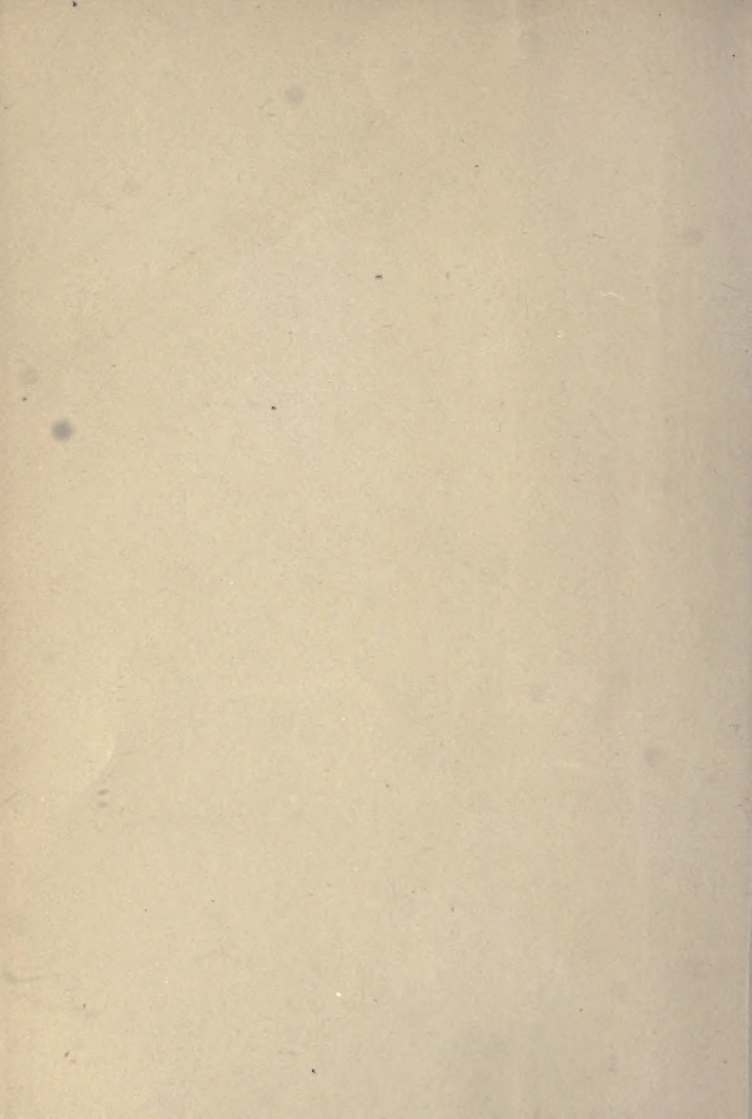
AN  
OXFORD  
TUTOR



The Life of Rev.  
THOMAS  
SHORT, B.D.









An Oxford Tutor

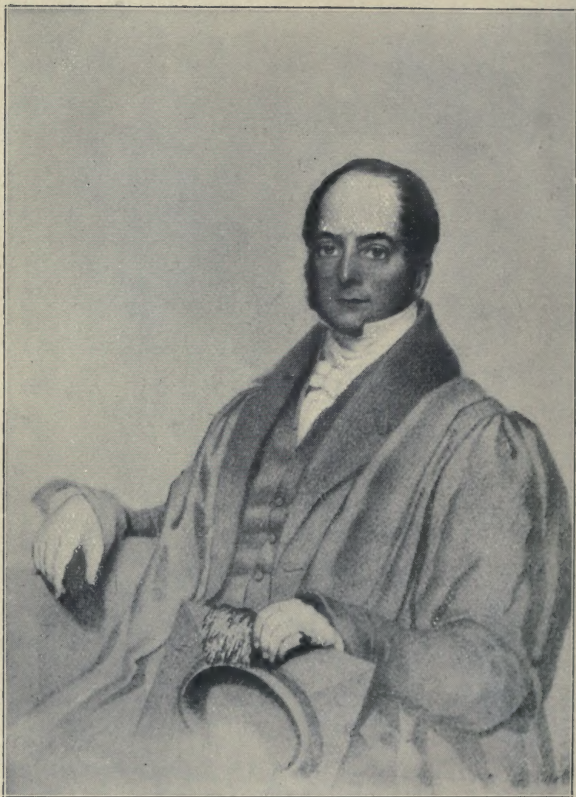
The Life of the Rev.

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REV. THOMAS SHORT.



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# An Oxford Tutor

The Life of the Rev.

Thomas Short, B.D.

*Of Trinity College, Oxford*

BY

C. E. H. EDWARDS

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# An Oxford Tutor

The Life of the Rev.

Thomas Short, B.D.

**I**N the Forest of Arden, of which some famous oaks alone remain, lies hidden a village, now, alas ! almost suburban to the great manufacturing capital of the Midlands, but once its successful rival in the iron industry.

A hundred years ago it lay buried amongst Warwickshire "lanes," the remains of tortuous forest paths. Even the inhabitants found it hard to be

found a mile or two away, so similar and numberless are the thickly-hedged, tiny roads. Fortunately, therefore, it boasts a noble parish church, whose tapering spire of red sand-stone stands as landmark to its worshippers for miles around. To strangers even now it preserves much of its old-world look, though the black and white timber houses which line the cobbled pathway of the wide High Street are gradually being replaced by red-brick modernisms. A few cropped elm trees and a linden or two abridge the causeway ; here and there a paling of lattice-work breaks the line showing a bit of greenery next to the general shop or post-office. Through the diamond panes of an old mansion now peeps a loaf or one of Rosamond's purple jars, the view of

which is somewhat blurred by "God bless Prince Charlie," scratched in big sprawling characters.

Within the memory of men now living, the gentry (professional folk mostly) were wont to sit under the shade of those elms on a summer's evening, drinking their gin or rum and smoking their long clay pipes. Here, then, in a house still standing, built in days of powder closets, was born a child whose name to generations of Oxford men became a household word. "Tommy Short," as he was familiarly called, will soon be only a name to which is tagged a few well-known stories, some exaggerated, and many totally untrue; or of which it may in his own words be said, "The story doubtless has some foundation of fact."



There are few left now to contradict these ; but some who take his name in vain may like to know something veracious of a man who in his day exercised considerable influence over the famous University.

Like many of the dons of that day, his private life was unknown even to his intimate friends ; so much so, in fact, that he is mentioned in a recent book by one who knew him well in his latter years, as dying "somewhere near Birmingham," a statement which would have entered like iron into his soul.

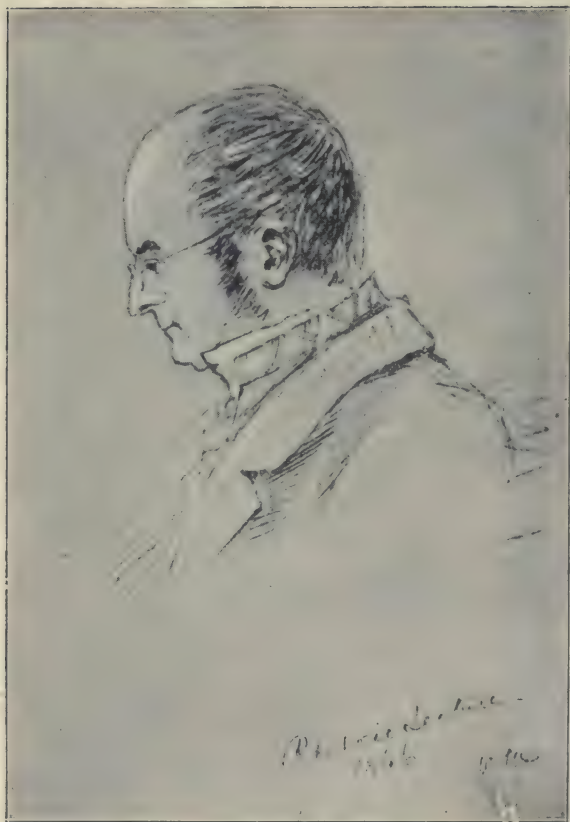
In those days the distinction between trade and profession was marked to an incredible extent, mutual intercourse of any kind was tabooed ; and this prejudice was so far inherited by Short that

the name of Brummagem was an abhorrence, nor did he hesitate to make his dislike apparent. Perhaps the distaste was enhanced by a circumstance to be mentioned below.

He was proud of his descent from the Warwickshire branch of the ancient family of Holbech. His mother was an heiress, and brought her husband a goodly dowry of land and money, some seventy or eighty thousand pounds' worth in all—a handsome fortune for that century. It was a shock to his family to discover that this gentleman had been speculating in the button trade: he was unmercifully fleeced, and lost the greater part of his own and wife's fortune. Hence perhaps his sons' life-long horror of trade. He was a surgeon; the sign-board, "John Short,

Surgeon," is now in possession of a medical museum, kept as a curiosity. With his private property and excellent practice his income amounted to some £6,000 a year ; but a pack of hounds, unlimited hospitality, and later the disastrous speculation, only enabled him to start his nine children on their way in life. The relic of the property, however, is still in the family. On the Short side of the family but little is known. The name crops up for a couple of hundred years in the village archives, the bearers thereof holding a respectable position. Judging by an exquisite water-colour picture of Mr. and Mrs. Short in early youth, they must have been a handsome pair ; and with beauty, at any rate, they endowed all their sons and daughters.





REV. THOMAS SHORT.

*(Pen-and-Ink Sketch by Rev. W. F. Norris.)*



Short himself lacked height, but his clean-cut features—the nose being rather of the Wellington type—well-opened blue eyes, black wavy hair, firm mouth and chin, made him even in old age a handsome man. He retained his youthful figure till long past middle age. Lake, the Proctor, stopped him one dark night: “Are you a member of this University?” “Yes, before you were born.” A pen-and-ink sketch by W. Foxley Norris (late Rector of Witney), drawn in lecture time about 1846, shows him as already slightly bald and wearing spectacles.

Many interesting heirlooms have descended. An ancient bedspread, described by authority as unique; mighty pewter and silver of Charles II.'s time; china and glass of Queen Anne's;

pictures of the old Italian and Flemish schools: all demonstrate the refined and cultured taste of his forbears, inherited by him in no small degree, as any who remember his rooms at Trinity will allow. Chippendale and Sheraton furniture was purchased for his bride by his father, as well as Irish linen woven with her coat of arms: the same shield that Short always used on his paper, a field vert charged with five scallop shells argent. An unerring instinct for music of the simple and unaffected style was also native to the family, enabling Short in after years to be an excellent judge and critic of the new school of elaborate technique.

Amongst the portraits of his ancestors are those of some who have done yeoman work for their country. Court,

camp, and Church claim their quota ; the latter indeed has a famous son. He was one of the compilers of the First Prayer Book of King Edward VI. ; it would have saved some heartburnings maybe had it remained the last. A specimen of Short's sound Latinity is inscribed on a brass in the church, commemorating his immediate deceased relatives ; an older one, dated 1726, proclaims the fact that six who there lie buried are in direct male descent, an almost unique occurrence. This panel ends with some Latin verse, the last line of which—

“Quos nuc atra nequit totos submergere  
lethe”—

was taken to heart by their descendant, Thomas Short ; for when he was more than eighty years of age he caused the

pedigree to be carefully copied from existing documents, the coats of arms to be emblazoned and heraldically verified at very considerable expense and trouble. Of the old Manor House nought remains. Like the other moated halls of the neighbourhood, it was turned into a farm, and gradually fell into decay; its last relic, an old hatchment with the arms, was filched one morning not long ago by another branch of the family who knew not Joseph. The family migrated to the village early in the eighteenth century, and has ever since been identified with its life.

John and Jane Short had twelve children, nine sons and three daughters. They were: John, in holy orders, was Vicar and Master of Temple Balsall;

his son succeeded him, and together they held the living for 104 years. Charles, a surgeon, dwelt at Bedford. Edward was a solicitor. Richard, also a surgeon, succeeded to his father's practice. Robert was a colonel in the East India Company's service. Those were the days of pagodas. He went by the name of the Nabob in the village. He bought the manorial rights from Lord Amherst, together with the "Manor Cottage," which possesses the largest horse-chestnut tree in Warwickshire. Here Short lived after his brother's death, and thither his friends used to come as headquarters for the fishing which he had in the vicinity. Colonel Short was known as a severe magistrate, especially dreaded by poachers. The cottage still retains the



bars, bolts, and iron shutters considered necessary for his safety. Another Richard and another Robert died in childhood. To give the name of a dead child to the next living one was thought good luck in Warwickshire. The sisters were: Jane, Short's favourite, married Captain Edwards, R.N., after one of the yearly visits to Bath. Amongst the acquaintances there were the Austens; and it is possible that Elizabeth's driving excursion (*Pride and Prejudice*) into Derbyshire may have had its origin in an event chronicled in the Short family—the incidents are almost identical. Jane was a great beauty, but ill-tempered; and in her fits of passion her brothers used to tie her by her long hair to the balusters until she recovered. Mary

married Rev. W. B. Dolling ; their grandson was the late Father Dolling. Elizabeth married Henry Couchman, whose grandson, Rev. Henry Couchman, late Master of Haileybury, is now fifty-sixth Lord of the Manor. Thomas, the youngest son and child, was born June 24th, 1789. His mother suffered much when he was born, and to the end of her long life attended church on St. John Baptist Day as an act of thanksgiving. From such a circumstance may we infer that Saints' Days were not so universally neglected as we are sometimes led to suppose ?

It was a year memorable in the world's history, and all Short's youth and early manhood were passed in the stress of war-time, with all its attendant miseries. He could remember a troop

of horse being raised in the village ready to repel invasion, though the recruits made it thoroughly understood they were only for home service. Tea was fifteen shillings a pound, and sugar prohibitive in price; bread a shilling the quartern loaf; and no caper sauce to the boiled mutton. Like his five brothers before him, he attended the grammar school, then under the ferule of Dr. Eyre, of flogging memory, brother-in-law of Dr. Parr. The school had some reputation in that century, when the great public schools kept up their numbers mainly by local association—for journeys were long and expensive. It boasted two poets amongst its *alumni*, Richard Jago and William Shenstone. The former has left some lines on his old school in his poem of

“Edgehill,” not altogether suggestive of agreeable recollections—

“Hail, Silhill ! respectful I salute  
 Thy walls ; more awful once ! when from the  
     sweet  
 Of festive freedom and domestic ease  
 With throbbing heart, to the stern discipline  
 Of Pædagogue morose, I sad returned.”

Other allusions to “Brow severe,” “birchen sceptre,” and “infant gore,” show that Dr. Eyre only carried on the tradition of his predecessor, as an extract from an amusing letter still extant will testify. Dr. Johnson was the applicant. “The feoffees before they would return answer, desired to make enquiry of ye caracter (?) of Mr. Johnson, who all agree that he is an excellent scholar, and upon that account deserves much better than to be school-master here. But then he has ye

caracter of being a very ill-natur'd gent : and he has such a way of distorting his fface, wh. (tho' he cannot help) ye gent : think it may affect some young ladds : for these two reasons he is not approved on ; ye late master (Mr. Crompton) huffing the feoffees being still in their memory. However we are all extreamely obliged to you for thinking of us, and proposing so good a scholar." Evidently manners were considered of more importance to that generation than mere orthography.

The Latin school was held in the upper room ; the lower, served by an usher, was used as an " English " school for the boys of the village, and so remained till 1812, when they were drafted off to the handsome church schools of the parish. In 1803 Short



left a rigid disciplinarian, only to find another at Rugby in Dr. Ingles. That school had much declined in numbers under his régime. The "Great Rebellion" had not long taken place, when the boys, thinking themselves aggrieved, encamped on the "Island," and a recruiting party of military had to be called to restore order. Short entered the school in the same year as Macready the actor, and boarded at the same house, Rev. J. Birch's, now demolished. His name does not appear in the cast of the "Castle Spectre," by "Monk" Lewis, histrionic talent not lending itself to his usual staid demeanour, though doubtless he was present. Two principal parts were taken by Macready, then only thirteen years of age. Macready writes: "Dr.

Wooll (who had just succeeded Ingles) winked at the performance, or rather encouraged it, we being allowed not only to act the play 'after three' to the boys, but to give an evening representation to the people of the town after 'locking up.'" Within two years he made his public appearance as Romeo, in Birmingham, whither his old fag-master perhaps went to see him act. Other contemporaries at Rugby were Robinson (Archdeacon of Madras), Sir G. W. Ricketts (Judge in Madras), and Littleton (Lord Hatherton). It was a rough and somewhat cruel age, wherein none but the strong and healthy survived ; and yet it was no uncommon thing for boys to enter the school at six or seven, and now and then even at five years of age.

One story Short used to tell of this period as if he had been merely an on-looker. "Commercial travellers from London used often to trespass in the school-field, and the boys had a great aversion to these bagmen, and determined to make an example. A fellow came into the Close swaggering and giving himself airs; so the boys set upon him. He tried to escape, but they caught him at a stile leading out into the road, and while some held him down, the others belaboured his commercial sides (that was not the word he used) with a cricket-bat. It was found expedient to hush the matter up by applying a five-pound note to the injured part." Organised games were then unknown, but poaching, fishing, fighting, were the chief amusements.

Small and delicate though he had been as a child, the thorough grounding he had received bore fruit, for he was high in the school when Dr. Sleath, then Second Master (later High Master of St. Paul's), was practically Head Master, owing to the long illness of Dr. Ingles, before his resignation. Both these masters speak to "the extent and accuracy of his knowledge, and especially of the facility and brilliancy of his composition, as also to his discretion, diligence, and kindness." Dr. Wooll, who succeeded Dr. Ingles, speaks of Short as high in the sixth on his arrival. "An admirable composition of his was left by my predecessor as the first 'play task,' which distinction he repeatedly won before he went to the University." In several old letters the

kindness of Dr. Wooll (the motto proposed by Lord Lyttelton for his flogging shop was "Great cry and little Wooll") is mentioned, as well as the care and attention of Mrs. Wooll to the health of the boys, evidently an unusual thing in those days of hard fare. Short took an exhibition from the school in 1807, and matriculated as Commoner at Trinity College, Oxford, in October. He was first "*sub tutamine*" of Dr. Ingram, who shortly afterwards became President, then under that of Dr. Samuel Mence—himself an old Rugby boy—to whose office of tutor Short eventually succeeded, when Dr. Mence retired to Highgate to take private pupils. Short was elected scholar the following Trinity Monday, an exception to the rule of a year's probation.

The college was very empty during the war, and he had the choice of several rooms ; these were up the " Bell," looking into the garden quad over the knife room. Hall was at 4 p.m., and everyone dressed for dinner in short trowsers and silk stockings ; the dandies had their hair dressed by a barber, but the scanty ablutions were still performed at the college pump. From this time may be dated his lifelong friendship with Dr. Ogle, Aldwychian Professor of Medicine ; James Randall, Archdeacon of Berks ; and Rev. William Hildyard, a well-known private tutor at Beverley. The last writes of him as " in every sense of the word a scholar, not merely a classic ; a man of general acquirements and information, well skilled in verse and prose, and possessing a



masterly and comprehensive mind." Boys are said to be better judges than their masters of each other's capabilities—hence this testimony is worthy of credence. In the pauses of European warfare he made, in company with Randall, the tour of the Continent, seeing Cardinal York, the last of the Stuarts, at Rome. About this time he must have been private tutor in the family of Hesketh, founders of the town of Fleetwood. In 1811 he took a Third Class in the Honour School (classics), and the following year his B.A. degree. He returned to Rugby as Under Master in 1811, remaining there nearly seven years. Though not a mathematician, he understood enough of the subject to give help to his pupils, for he combined the office

of private tutor with his other duties. At that time the study of mathematics was almost a minus quantity ; and spoken French or German was such a rarity that when the Allied Sovereigns visited Oxford in 1814, there were but few men who were able to speak French readily to the suites (one was Professor Macbride, who was still at Oxford in the sixties, and died at a very advanced age), and only two who could "smatter" a little German : one of these was George Cox, author of "Black Gowns and Red Coats." Short then saw the great gates of Trinity opened for the Prince Regent ; forty years later he saw them opened for the present King, then Prince of Wales.

The letters written of this period are

illuminating. Each one of his pupils in turn expresses, with regard to Rugby, affection, esteem, and desire for its welfare in warmth of language hardly to be expected in those days of reticence and reserve. While deprecating blame to others, they one and all state the opinion that what advantage they gained from Rugby was due to him. No less than fifty Rugbeans (such is the spelling of that date) testify to his abilities. We cannot do better than quote their own words: "As scholars of Rugby we have had ample opportunities of witnessing Mr. Short's exertions, both in communicating instruction and maintaining discipline; and we feel it but just to say that in both departments his vigilance and abilities were admirably calculated to uphold

the best interests of the school. . . . .  
 Of those Rugbeans who during the last ten years have gained credit to themselves in the Universities, all, with one or two exceptions, will be ready to admit that most of their subsequent distinction was owing either to the knowledge acquired or the habit of attention for formed under the superintendence of Mr. Short."

Habit of attention was not enforced by moral persuasion alone. Short said he one day found written on his desk "Tommy πολύφλ ογοβοιος" ("Much-flogging Tommy"). "I wish I had known who the young varlet was, I'd have given him half-a-crown."

T. C. Sneyd Kynnersley (stipendiary magistrate at Birmingham) writes : "He was my tutor when I first went to

Rugby. I was then very young, perhaps the youngest boy in the school, and I shall never forget the extreme kindness and zealous care with which I was treated by him. I was under his care, I think, four years till he left Rugby, during which I passed through all the forms, from the first to the fifth, and his attention to me throughout was unremitting. His extreme diligence and activity anyone who has been under his care at Rugby will allow ; but his great kindness and zeal for the interests of his pupils can be known to them alone." Sir William Wynn writes : "When two of my nephews (whose names are Tyler) were sent to Rugby their healths were bad, in consequence of which they were kept too much at home, and their progress as scholars

was very small. The ground they had lost was so well recovered that on my accompanying them to be examined for admission to the College at Haileybury I had the pleasure of being informed that few boys had appeared who were better prepared for a severe examination. They quitted the College with honour, and are gone to Bengal in the Civil Service of the East India Company. These boys were, according to their request to me, removed from the superintendence of another tutor and placed under that of Mr. Short. The annual expenses of a nephew who was educated at Eton exceeded in amount those of the two who were at Rugby. The younger boys were quite as well educated in every respect as their brother, and I think their healths and



morals were more attended to." This youth from Eton was sent to Trinity in order to be under Short. Hensleigh Wedgewood (son of Josiah, and author of an Etymological Dictionary) bluntly says : " He was the best master I ever was under."

The consensus of opinion concerning his attainments is remarkable. Diligence, courtesy, kindness, and facility for instruction, occur in every letter. Withal it should be remembered that he was still a very young man. He did not always act as mentor. A boy wearing white duck trousers was one day lying on a slope in the Close. Short gave him a smart cut with an ash stick. " Sir," said the lad ; " you are taking advantage of your situation." " No ; I am taking advantage of yours,"

was the Short-ish retort. Such a piece of boyish mischief, however, did not prevent the young men he sent to the Universities being noted for their "correct behaviour" and sound scholarship. Amongst those who attained some position for themselves in after life may be noted Hedley Vicars, Sir James Walker, Sir J. S. Menteath, Sir F. Johnstone, Rev. A. B. Clough, Rev. J. Peel (Dean of Worcester), Sir G. E. Welby, and others.

In 1816 Short returned to Trinity as Fellow and Tutor. He had taken the degree of B.A. in 1812, that of M.A. in 1814, and was ordained during his residence at Rugby. Reforms are not introduced in a day, and Dr. Ingram was probably the moving spirit in throwing open the scholarships to the

whole University ; but Short's hand can be seen in the restoration of discipline and order. Within a year of his return the late Cardinal Newman writes, as a Freshman : " If anyone wishes to study much, I believe that there can be no college that will encourage him more than Trinity. It is wishing to rise, and is rising fast. In discipline it has become one of the strictest colleges. There are lamentations in every corner of the increasing rigour. It is laughable, but it is delightful, to hear the groans of the oppressed." At the same time the " hunting and sporting men were rarely refused absence from lecture." Even in those early days Short had the elasticity of method which enabled him to deal with each individual character and touch the heart

of widely different men like saintly Newman and wild Richard Burton, that they were moved to tears on beholding him sixty years after. He was a yearly examiner at many of the public schools; comparatively little written work was done, thus entailing far heavier labour. He was specially chosen at Harrow for the new Exhibitions, where he acquitted himself so as to win the thanks of the Governors for "conducting a minute and laborious examination in the style, matter, and manner of which he displayed much patience, grammatical accuracy, and good temper."

With such experience and such antecedents he stood as candidate in 1827 for the Head-mastership of Rugby School. His fitness and capacity were

such that, coupled with the prescriptive preference shown to Rugbean candidates, his appointment was considered an almost foregone conclusion. Rugby has always been reckoned a perquisite of Oxford; and the Heads of University, Jesus, Pembroke, Trinity, and St. Edmund Hall, thirty Fellows and Tutors of other colleges, pronounced him the fittest man for the post. The school was known to be in a parlous state after the weak rule of Dr. Wooll, much as he had been personally liked. Short was already known as a strong man, for Trinity had been restored to order mainly through his exertions, and the thanks of the University had been almost publicly given for the example he had there set. His firmness and strength of character is dwelt upon with

unusual emphasis and decision. There was a general feeling abroad that drastic changes in public school methods were required, and that Short was the man to accomplish them without undue disturbance of existing arrangements. But it was not to be ; a greater than he was there. He was defeated by one vote only, mainly through the exertions of Whately, in favour of Dr. Arnold, notwithstanding Short's personal friendship and connection with several of the Trustees. It is said that there was much friction later between Arnold and the Trustees, and that he was even asked to resign. Short, at any rate, lost his chance of "changing the face of public school education." All he ever said afterwards regarding his disappointment was, "I



have been everything at Rugby except Head-master and gate-porter."

He returned to his old work, and there remained till the end of his life, ceasing, however, to take any active part in 1856. "Forty years long have I been plagued with this generation," he said to an enquiring mother. He was now elected Vice-President, an office which he retained, with a short interval of three years in 1863, till his death. We think it may be said without gain-saying that he was *the* famous tutor of his day. If any old Oxford tutor (of the few that are left) were asked the question, we think they would, like the Greek Generals of old, give their second vote to Tommy Short. Those who had been under him at Rugby chose Trinity for his sake. His former colleagues

sent him their most promising pupils. Fathers sent their sons to be under one whom themselves had loved and revered. It is said that the origin of Universities was the fame of a teacher. Under his auspices Trinity, from an insignificant college, small in numbers and of slight reputation, grew into a vigorous society, rivalling its compeers in the eminence of its academical honours. The fame of some amongst its members has spread into all lands. The names of Newman, Bowden, Isaac Williams, Claughton, Roundell Palmer, Haddan, Rawlinson, and Freeman, will be for ever united with Short of Trinity. He observed with a shrewd though kindly eye the powers far greater than his own, knew his own limits, and shook off with characteristic common-sense the

compliment once paid him by Rawlinson at a Gaudy, that his jog-trot lectures could have been of value. The courtesy and dignity of bearing for which he was noted as a boy gave the "tone" to "this most gentlemanlike college." His constant residence, too, had a most beneficial effect on the instruction, for he knew his books well, including cribs! Mr. Gladstone said he learnt little enough at Eton, but he learnt to be accurate—and Short was a born teacher.

A certain Tom Briggs once brought out a wordy paraphrase in the wrong place. "Wait a bit," said Short, "that's not yet"; then helping him over the intervening lines. "Now for all those fine words." He would ask a geographical question. "It's not in Asia

Minor," or "Not in the Aegean Sea—a most convenient puddle, that, for guessing." When Roundell Palmer was plucked for his "Little Go" in Euclid, "Never mind," said he, "Palmer can write better Latin than any of his examiners." We will tell the oft-told story of the Oriel Fellowship in his own words: "When Newman was in for the Oriel Fellowship he came to me after the first paper, which was an essay, and said: 'I have made a complete mess of it, and have broken down entirely.' I happened to meet Tyler, one of the Fellows; he said to me: 'Tell me something of your man Newman, for he has written by far the best essay.' Of course I did not tell Newman what I had heard, but I said: 'You go on with the examination as though you

had no chance, and were only an unconcerned spectator.' As I was riding up to Oxford next term, I stopped to bait my horse at Shipstone, and read in *The University Intelligence*: 'Yesterday, Mr. Newman, of Trinity, was elected Fellow of Oriel.' When Newman visited Short in his rooms the year before his death, Short asked him: 'Do you remember lunching with me when you were in for the Oriel Fellowship?' 'Yes,' said Newman, 'and I remember what you had for luncheon—lamb cutlets and fried parsley.'” Newman's love for his old tutor showed itself in the most real and serious sense; every year after his death he said a Mass for him (for which we are afraid Short would not have thanked him). The Evangelical Movement, which

developed at Oxford into the Tractarian, both passed him by, leaving him what he was before, a high and dry Tory Churchman, who could see nothing specially incongruous in a Bishop discussing the breed of sheep during the pauses of a Confirmation Service caused by a broken window being mended.

He kept up the old custom of bowing ceremoniously in hall and chapel, though he would have been the last to acknowledge that the latter was nothing more than the ancient bowing to the altar and celebrant. Games he never cared much for—he called the boating men hydro-maniacs ; and his breakfast parties were invariably composed of those who were of his own kidney in their love of fishing. Riding he kept



up till very late in life, very constantly with a fair female equestrian as his companion. In turning over these old letters, it is surprising to note how distinct the eighteenth century is from the early nineteenth. The sprawling, loose, irregular writing of the former point to the days when writing-masters were unknown. "Ye" is written for "the"; nouns are written with capitals; the phraseology is that of Johnson, sesquipedalian words, and a trace of Latin prose construction. Why was "u" rejected in "favor" and inserted in "honourable"? But Short and his pupils write in small neat characters; the expressions are terse and well-balanced. He was always precise in his nomenclature, and the fund of good stories which he kept for the benefit of

successive generations of Common Room, even after many repetitions, were couched in choice language, and, as a test of their truthfulness, in pretty much the same words. He spoke of himself as "a great pedestrian" in his youth, an "angler" for amusement, and wished he had been more of a "draughtsman." In early days he used "you was," "obleegeed." "Vouchsafe" he pronounced with the "ch" hard.

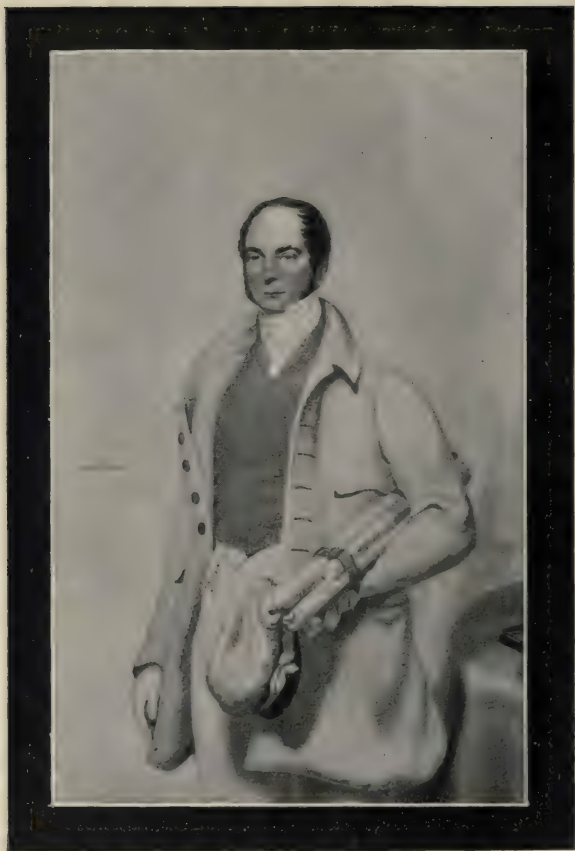
A rather famous preacher of Evangelical persuasion, Macneile by name, after refusing Short's offer of help, read the verse in which occurs : "The island they called Melita." "The doose they did," said Short to himself. He had a great horror of vulgarity in all its forms, slang, unsuitable dress, or free-and-easy manners ; he

said, with unconscious appropriateness, that Oxford under the new regulations was nothing better than a National School ; and the men of the new school were a great trouble to him, for if he never took any liberties, neither did he allow any. He had taken Orders as a schoolmaster ; and apart from a Sunday lectureship at St. Nicolas', Abingdon, he held no ecclesiastical appointment. "I've passed all the college livings once and one of them twice." He walked over there on Sundays to give, as a brother Shepherd was wont to say : "Hay and turnips (prayers and sermon) in the morning ; hay only in the afternoon." Once, when the floods were out, he was taken across in a wheel-barrow. Haddon was telling the story in Common Room to some of his High Church

friends. "By-the-bye, Short, what did you sit on in the wheel-barrow?" "What part of the body do you generally sit on, Haddon?" was the retort. Only one undergraduate was ever known to get the better of Short. The delinquent had fired a pistol at the President's door, to whose office Short was then supposed to aspire. "What would have been the consequence if the President had come out at the moment I leave you to imagine!" said Short. "A vacancy in the Presidency, sir," replied the undergraduate with a bow. "Get along with you, you impudent young varlet." Varlet was almost a term of endearment with Short. More heinous crimes were greeted with "jackanapes" or "puppy," or worse.

He always wore a heavy folded coat,





REV. THOMAS SHORT IN FISHING COSTUME.  
*(From an original drawing.)*

with a large collar; a striped lavender scarf wrapped round once or twice, and then tied in a very small bow; very tight and short black-and-white trowsers strapped down to Oxford shoes. One day, when the latter part of the toilet had been omitted, he was crossing the quad, when he heard one undergraduate say to another: "I wonder why Tommy wears his trowsers so short?" Short turned round and said: "Tommy's trowsers are like you young jackanapes—want taking down and strapping." Until his sight and hearing became too much impaired, he used to read in chapel: he read very fast, and sometimes lost his place, when he started an artificial sort of cough, which lasted till he had found it again. His religion indeed



was unobtrusive, showing itself in unswerving devotion to duty and a spotless life rather than in outward forms ; in fact, he was, as he has been described by one who knew him in later years, " not an Evangelist." Fasting in particular always called forth some witty and caustic remark, he himself making no secret of his appreciation of a good table ; and he was an excellent judge of wine, now almost a lost art. One binn he called his schismatical port, because it was bought from a dissenter.

He spent his vacations either in walking tours or in fishing salmon in Ireland or the Wye. He also had some water near Oxford, and the High Table used to benefit from his and Dr. Whorwood's (Vicar of Willoughby) catch of pike. A Nonconformist minister once trespassed

on his preserves ; but the fish were too orthodox to bite. Music he delighted in, and attended the Birmingham Festival with a large party of nephews and nieces ; he was present when Mendelssohn conducted the first performance of "Elijah" in 1846 ; but he used to say that the first real insight into what music really meant was the Chaos Overture and Light Chorus in the "Creation." He was much attached to his numerous relatives, and once took four generations to the pantomime, and seemed to enjoy it as much as any of them. A visit to "Uncle Tom" always meant a handsome tip, for which he used to exact some small service, such as reading aloud or writing a letter. He was fond of society, and was a welcome guest at

many houses where a rubber in the evening was the order of the day. When a very old man he attended a ball given by a local magnate. The whole company turned to watch the nearly blind old man as he walked down the brilliantly-lighted room leaning on the arm of his piscatory δουλός Beesley, who also attended to the arcana of the toilet. When at the "Cottage" on a Sunday he attended the Parish church, and then lunched with a niece almost as old as himself, to whose house a bottle of famous brown sherry always preceded him. A punctilious regard for truth was another of his characteristics. A nephew of whom he was very fond had no ticket for the theatre at Commemoration. "Let me, sir, be your valet for the

occasion." "But you are not my valet." Perhaps a dislike to ask a favour was also a factor in the refusal.

Many of the quips retailed in the "Breviarium" or "Short Stories" date from a coarser and more outspoken age than our own, and do not bear repeating, witty as they are, no longer being associated with the slightly nasal twang and humorous kindly look. His sight and hearing had become much impaired, and he was very infirm, when he left his beloved Trinity for the last time. "College rooms are pleasant places to live in, but not pleasant places to die in," he said, with much earnestness. For seventy-two years he had known and loved Trinity, but he preferred to pass his last days where he had been bred and born. On the 31st

of May, 1879, he passed to his rest, and lies buried with his kindred in sure and certain hope. But one person ever realized what lay beneath the spiritual reserve. The late Bishop of St. Albans, his oldest living friend, thus speaks : " I dined with him one evening at the President's, just after I had been made Bishop. We strolled into the garden after dinner, and suddenly dear old Short (we were quite alone) stopped, and he knelt on the grass and said : ' Claughton, give me your blessing.' I was much moved by it, as you can imagine."



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